

Very Fast Internet inc. is a Unlicensed frequency WISP serving rural Minnesota. We serve business, farmers and families over a 2,500 sq. mile area. Currently we have had to turn down 48% of all potential customer inquires due to a lack of a cost effective solution for connection to our network. This is due to the limitations of Line of Sight requirements for microwave solutions. We have had limited success deploying 900mhz equipment due to the fact that this spectrum is very limited in size and congestion. Where we do have 900mhz equipment successfully deployed we have had over a 95% successful installation to customer inquires.

Rural WISPs have been bridging the digital divide for several years and have proven them selves to be hard working and compassionate people. For example when the hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed much of the traditional communication infrastructure volunteer WISPs were the first responders to bring services online in many of the affected areas. WISPs and related technology efforts worked around the clock to help bring VOIP telephone service and Internet access to those in shelters and even aid workers and FEMA staff. This critical link to federal online resources, registration to online search databases and phone calls to loved ones, insurance companies, aid agencies and government resources helped thousands of people on the road to putting their lives back together. This work was done largely as volunteer efforts using donated equipment operating in unlicensed frequencies. All of this was done in a timely fashion. The only thing that could have been better was if it could have been done even faster. One of the critical ways that time could be saved is with the use of lower frequency equipment. Time to install and bring up service can easily be cut in half if Line of Sight is not required. This also brings truly mobile and roaming solutions to reality.

The lower frequency bands are valuable. History has shown that for broadband deployments such as the previously named MMDS spectrum that most communication companies have to large an investment in their current infrastructure to truly look at an alternative solution that wireless can provide. The problem is they are the only organizations with enough capital to purchases these valuable resources on a auction basis.

We need an unlicensed solution to this spectrum that will allow for its most effective use to bring reliable and cost efficient solutions to the under served of America.